

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates to modularly constructed RNA molecules which can bind to a ligand and which are characterized by two sequence regions, namely a first sequence region which contributes to the maintenance of the three-dimensional structure of the RNA molecule, and a second sequence region which is responsible for the specific binding of the ligand. These RNA molecules, e.g. the NINTROX RNA, can be used for directly influencing the gene expression. The invention also relates to vectors containing the RNA molecules according to the invention as well as to medicaments and diagnostic compositions which contain said RNA molecules or vectors, to an antibody which specifically recognizes these RNA molecules or antisense RNA binding specifically to these RNA molecules, or to ribozymes cleaving these RNA molecules. In addition, the invention relates to non-human mammals whose NINTROX gene is modified by inserting a heterologous sequence and to cells obtained therefrom.